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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

September
October
1948



Miscellany

Carmel, August 27

Editor—After another summer spent in tramping through horse traces on the mountain trails of national parks I should like to suggest the formation of an organization to be known as the Society of Horse Haters. (I don't really hate horses individually. In fact, I like them very much, having been born and brought up on a New England farm. It is only en masse on the mountain trails that the suggested name applies.) This organization would have no dues, except for a three-cent postage stamp once a year spent in writing to the Director of the National Park Service placing before him the case of the mountain trail hikers (if you don't like the word "hikers," roll your own) as opposed to the horse and mule riders, who at present use up the major portion of the trail construction and maintenance appropriation.

Specifically, I should like to suggest that the members of this Society, of whom there must be several thousand potential members, should press for the construction of narrow one-man trails from which horses and mules would be excluded. Such trails, well ditched, would require only a fraction of the construction and maintenance cost of the big horse trails. The pounding of the horses' hoofs makes a depression in the center of these trails down which the rain runs, washing them out rapidly. This would not be true of hikers' trails and they could accordingly be steeper and shorter than the horse trails. I believe that a start has already been made in this direction at Bryce Canyon and perhaps elsewhere.

However, the biggest advantage of a system of these trails would be that they could be kept clean and sweet. It is for me difficult to get the maximum amount of enjoyment out of a trail trip if I have to fol-

low after a pack string of forty or fifty horses or mules for a considerable distance—and this happens every summer a good many times. Then too I dislike having to flatten myself against a trailside rock for ten minutes while the string of horses and riders goes past, casting pitying glances at me and trying, sometimes in vain, to get their mounts past me without shying. I believe that hikers have as much right to the enjoyment of the trails as riders, and if a few thousand of us would invest a three-cent stamp once a year in impressing that fact, we might eventually get some consideration in the allocation of the trail budgets. The program suggested is, I am sure, entirely practicable.

C. EDWARD GRAVES

P. S. Exchanges please copy.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 33

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1948

NUMBERS 8-9

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

For the October Record

To Dam or Not to Dam

From all the schemes now on the books or promised for damming the rivers of the West, it would seem that all persons who like the sight of natural running water had better look at their streams soon and thereafter depend upon their memories. The Colorado is apparently to become a staircase for a Bunyan on water skis. The Columbia is never to see Vanport again. The Rogue River is to go to work. No California stream is to run sterile to the sea. Every possible arid Western acre is to have its thirst quenched, and every second-foot of stream flow that can put its head to the wheel is not going to be allowed to rush idly by.

Is there anyone but a dreamer who would question the beneficence of the stream engineer? Is there any valid reason at all for the cry to go up, Damsman, spare that stream?

In the irrigation- and power-conscious West a man is treading dangerous water to suggest that there is any answer to these questions than a logical, practical, realistic, incontrovertible *No*. But perhaps there are enough people today who feel, after reading *Our Plundered Planet* and *Road to Survival*, that we are today standing on such uneasy ground that a little dangerous water might be a bit refreshing. If there are such people, they ought to be heard, now, wherever they think they can find an audience. There is not likely to be any money in it, but there's a good chance that they will be well remunerated with thanks

—with an appreciation that may very well be extended long after they are around to hear it.

The country badly needs, we submit, to hear today from men with enough stature to have their heads in the clouds and their feet on the ground. We'd like to hear from them in these pages. We can suggest several themes on which they could develop their own variations:

1. The first theme is one with which our own membership is most familiar. It runs like this: The implementation of conservation that is expressed in national parks and wilderness areas has set a standard for the world to follow; we must protect the natural values which those areas encompass. If dams must be built, park and wilderness areas should be the last to be encroached upon, even if it does cost a dollar or two per citizen more to get equivalent storage or power from some less favorable sites.

2. Competent engineers can expand upon the second theme. We should not, in the enthusiasm of the moment, resort to over-engineering. It is becoming apparent, for example, that the Glacier View Dam is a matter of belaboring a mountain to control a mouse (to describe the Flathead River in terms of what it is to the Columbia). Aren't there better ways to control floods? (See page 11).

Illustrative engineering data: Had the Glacier View Dam been built three years before the start of World War II, and had it then somehow been filled to capacity immediately, there would have followed

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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1948

many years in which more than 22 square miles of lake bottom would have been exposed (this is the minimum exposed by the annual drawdown), not to be covered again until this year's flood—if then. The river isn't up to it. It contributed slightly less than four inches to the Vanport flood crest.

3. We should hear from physicists on a third theme: What is the outlook with regard to the use of atomic energy for power and, at least for coastal areas, for water? Is there a likelihood that within a few years' time after the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars for power development on streams, a cheaper source of power may be available that would render the dams obsolete even before they begin to silt up? Oil doesn't last forever, and that explains much of the recent interest in hydroelectric power, at least in California. To look ahead a few more cen-

turies, sources of atomic energy might not last forever, either. The same is true of dams in a long enough view of their silt life. So we might as well concern ourselves with the economics of our own century.

4. What counsel do our military and social scientists offer on the fourth theme: Is it not time to reverse the trend of centralization—of concentrating tremendously remunerative strategic targets; of building larger projects to enable more people to live in less space for the battle that pitches gregariousness against the survival of both man and the environment that was created for him and not by him.

Perhaps there are other themes. Perhaps there is a philosopher who will say that man would do better with shorter looks at gadgets illuminated by the power of harnessed rivers and longer looks at cool green streams and shining cascades.

D.R.B.

A Contest

For the five best articles on the themes suggested in "To Dam Or Not To Dam" in this issue, a portfolio of fine original prints, 8 x 10, by Cedric Wright that portray Streams Worth Sparing. Rights of the entrants will be reserved in any book that materializes from a compilation of their contributions. A second prize for the best article on each theme will be a selection (ours) of ten back numbers of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. Each article (or chapter) should be somewhere between 5,000 and 15,000 words long, typed, double spaced. A panel of judges will be announced. Anyone may enter. The deadline is December 1, 1948. Address contributions to Editor, *Sierra Club Bulletin*, University of California Press, Berkeley 4, California.

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Directors Discuss Many Problems

Gathering at Tuolumne Meadows on the club's Soda Springs property for the first time since 1940, the Board of Directors met September 5. As has each successive meeting for the last few years, this one also established a record for the length of its agenda and for duration.

All directors were present except Hildebrand, Huber, and Livermore. Present by invitation were Honorary Vice-Presidents McDuffie and Starr, Chapter Chairmen James L. Gorin (Southern California) and Fred Holmes (Mother Lode), San Diego representative Ivy Foster, Dr. Harold C. Bradley (Conservation), and Alfred E. Weiler (Library). Guests were: Dr. Carl P. Russell, Superintendent of Yosemite; Chief Ranger Oscar A. Sedergren; Park Naturalist Donald E. McHenry; NPS Regional Engineer Volney Westley; Miss Harlean James, Executive Secretary, American Planning and Civic Association; Miss Pearl Chase, President, California Conservation Council.

With great regret the Board accepted the resignation of Treasurer Walter L. Huber, a director for thirty-four years, tendered owing to the pressure of business. To his place as director and Treasurer the Board unanimously elected Robert L. Lipman, present chairman of the Legal Committee, veteran of many High Trips, and tireless worker in the club's program.

The Board elected Charles S. Webber and Bernard DeVoto to Honorary Life Membership. Mr. Webber, a member of the club for many years, has devoted several decades to the study and photography of Sierra flora and recently contributed several hundred of his colored slides to the club collection. Mr. DeVoto, noted author and an editor of *Harper's*, has made notable contributions to the cause of conservation, particularly in pointing his pen at the stockmen who were endeavoring to undermine the Forest Service and move in on the public lands.

Resolutions of regret were passed upon the deaths of François E. Matthes, an Honorary Vice-President, and M. Hall McAllister, a Patron Member. Memorials will ap-

pear in the 1949 annual *SCB*. The Secretary announced that Mr. McAllister's will provided for a bequest to the Sierra Club of \$2,500.

Highlights of the principal topics discussed by the Board follow.

Kings Canyon Road

NPS plans call for extension of the existing Kings Canyon road (which now terminates about 1/2 mile below Granite Creek) as far as Kanawyers. Brower reported on a study of the proposed route, made by Directors Farquhar, Clark, and Brower, assisted by Robert L. Lipman, H. K. Armstrong, and August Frugé, while they were in the canyon this summer. Clark, Brower, Armstrong, and Frugé had gone over the ground with Park Service officials on July 18, and had endeavored to find a route which would preserve as much space as possible for public recreational use, and be as inconspicuous as possible, without departing too greatly from the standards (of grade and curvature) to which the PRA and NPS engineers wish to adhere. Brower cited Lipman's observation that the land between the road and the cliffs must be considered lost to recreational use, for people driving into a canyon area walk toward the river when they leave their cars. Any road should therefore lie as close to the foot of the cliffs as possible. The location suggested by the Sierra Club would permit use of about 10 acres more than would be available if the road were laid out according to the present NPS plan, and would also provide for a larger and better-concealed parking area. Mr. Westley explained the desirability of certain road standards, but answered "yes" when Farquhar asked him if he thought that the Sierra Club and the engineers were approaching a common understanding. Colby reminded the meeting that when the Sierra Club agreed to grant the federal government a right of way across the Zumwalt Meadows property the stipulation was made that as much use area as possible be preserved. Farquhar recommended that the matter receive further committee study,

and closed the discussion with an expression of confidence that, with a mutual understanding of what each wished to do, the club and the NPS will work out a satisfactory solution.

Tioga Road

Dr. Russell was asked for further information on plans for further construction of the new Tioga Road. He reminded the Board that the club had participated in the study, about 15 years ago, following which the presently proposed route had been developed, and stated that the question now was whether the club would abide by the decision made earlier. He said that plans and specifications are complete, and continuation of work is waiting only for funds. Mr. Westley, in giving technical details of the plans, said that the proposed location by-passes Snow Flat (where late-laying snow requires the use of plows to open the road each summer), and crosses Yosemite Creek much higher up than the old road, thus avoiding the steep grades down to and up out of the present crossing. (The mining company which built the road, Mr. Colby interpolated, found itself running out of funds and had to complete the road in the shortest distance possible.) The new road would have the same high standards as the present Yosemite Valley-White Wolf and Tenaya Summit-Tioga Pass sections, with a 26-foot blacktop and a 424-foot minimum radius for blind curves, maximum grade of about 5 per cent.

Walter Starr commented that the Generals Highway is an excellent scenic mountain road, following natural curves and contours as much as possible (and therefore causing minimum scarring of the landscape), and affording good travel conditions although not on such high standards as the completed portions of the new Tioga Road.

Dr. Bradley, chairman of the Conservation Committee's Subcommittee on Roads, was called upon to present his arguments, based on nearly two years of very detailed study, in favor of reappraisal of the road plans. He expressed his fears that overdevelopment of the Tuolumne Meadows re-

gion would follow upon fast and easy access, and that the area would be subject to a heavy burden of transcontinental traffic, private and commercial, of persons not particularly concerned with conservation of the charm of the Meadows. He presented a proposal originating in Chicago, for using the present old road for west-bound travelers, and building a second narrow road, perhaps on the grade of the proposed realignment, for east-bound traffic, with occasional short cross links for drivers who changed their minds.

Many agreed with him that relatively undeveloped and uncrowded mountain country such as Tuolumne Meadows is growing increasingly precious. Some thought that divided roads were impracticable and, although they wind under the screening forest canopy, likely to leave more scars than a single wide road, which would make its own contours and require substantial clearing. Portions of a letter from Nathan C. Clark were read by the Secretary, expressing the view that if restriction of use were necessary to protect an area, it would be best to have that restriction effected by maintaining natural limitation of access.

As an alternative to high-standard highways in national parks, Lewis Clark described the road in Rainier National Park. In that park it was called to the attention of motorists that they were driving on a scenic road not adaptable to high speed. The road alignment was in keeping with the implication that visitors ought to enjoy the scenery, not the speed, as is true of the Ash Mountain approach road to Giant Forest. The latter approach, in spite of sharp curves and grades, safely handles a load of 2,000 cars per day. The Big Oak Flat road approach from Groveland to Crane Flat is comparable, though less modern and having less of the mountain-road flavor. Somewhat the same type of construction could be effected along the present White Wolf-Tenaya Summit stretch for about \$20,000 per mile, as compared to \$200,000 per mile for the through highway planned (exact cost irrelevant).

Ansel Adams asked for serious consideration of a route north from Lake Tenaya to Tenaya Summit by way of Murphy

Creek rather than alongside Tenaya Lake and up past the base of the domes. Leonard strongly supported Adams's suggestion, adding that the Murphy Creek region is not particularly attractive for camping purposes, and has such dense thickets of lodgepole pine that a road built through it would be inconspicuous, whereas the domes and the canyon at their base are scenically attractive and subject to impairment by road-building operations. The new route would also avoid the serious impact upon the beauty of Lake Tenaya that would result from building a high-standard highway into the lake, as presently planned.

Farquhar pointed out that the decisions which the Sierra Club was called upon to make in 1933 were not concerned with the standards or detailed location of the portion of the road now under discussion, and that it would involve no inconsistency if the club now requested a change in plans. Starr said any decision made 15 years ago need not be considered binding now. He urged a new study—perhaps by a separate special committee—in the light of changed conditions and taking into account some of the many excellent suggestions which had been made. He agreed with those who were concerned over disappearance of semi-wild country suitable for auto camping. He also expressed fear that the Public Roads Administration would tend to build all roads to increasingly higher standards.

Colby reminded the Board of John Muir's wish, early in the century, to have as many people as possible see the mountain country. Muir's idea was that if great numbers of people could be induced to visit such mountain areas as Yosemite Valley, there would be that many more to defend the areas against the abuse of overdevelopment and impairment of the natural scene. Colby believed that with improvement of access to Tuolumne Meadows, a vast number of people would enjoy the beauty of the Tuolumne Meadows region and would therefore oppose its abuse and overdevelopment. It would also relieve Yosemite Valley of some of the overcrowding that occurs there, and which the Yosemite Advisory Board and NPS are endeavoring to limit artificially.

Dams Affecting National Parks

The directors discussed briefly the proposed *Glacier View Dam*, to which the Sierra Club has already stated its opposition, and expressed appreciation of the statement by NPS Director Newton B. Drury in opposition to the dam (*SCB*, June, 1948).

The proposed *Kanab Diversion* was described to the Board. Bureau of Reclamation plans call for the diversion, for power purposes, of nearly all of the water in the Colorado River before it flows through the Grand Canyon. It was felt that such serious curtailment of the flow of the Colorado River—which excavated the Grand Canyon—would seriously affect park values. It was also pointed out that the project would be, at best, an uneconomical source of power. The board voted unanimous opposition to the Kanab Diversion project.

The proposed *Bridge Canyon Dam*, backing up the waters of the Colorado 18 miles into the park, was discussed at greater length. Many of the directors felt that any dam in any national park is a violation of national-park principles, sharing the opinion of six of the seven members of the Secretary of Interior's advisory committee on conservation. Robinson then told why he thought the Sierra Club should not oppose the project. He said that the economic value of the dam would be considerable; that it would have appreciable recreational value, permitting access by boat to parts of the canyon seldom visited by trail; that this project might be considered one of the prior commitments recognized at the time of the formation of the Grand Canyon National Park; and moreover, that construction of this dam is probably inevitable. It was objected (by Dawson) that the conservation organizations should present a united front in opposition to the dam, (by Mauk) that approval of this project might weaken the Sierra Club's opposition to others, such as the Glacier View Dam, and (by Heald) that not only national-park values would be affected, since the dam would also seriously alter the character of the Grand Canyon National Monument. It was pointed out that the expected silt

life of the Bridge Canyon Dam would be only 37 years unless other silt-control dams are built above the park.

The matter is to receive further study and is to be discussed again at the November meeting.

Other Dams

It was reported that check dams at the headwaters of the San Joaquin River, ranging in height from two feet to 20 feet, are proposed for lakes (for example, Marie, Rose, Italy, Vee) within the wilderness area, their purpose being to maintain flow in the trout streams for a longer season. While recognizing the desirability of controlled stream flow, and with full appreciation of the recreational values of trout fishing, the board felt that the values of unaltered wilderness transcend the benefits to be gained by the building of dams, with consequent disturbance of the natural scene and voted unanimously to oppose the building of check dams in any wilderness area.

In consideration of a member's concern over the plans for a dam in Vermilion Valley, it was pointed out that plans were made and permits were obtained as early as 1912 for a dam at this site, and that the terrain which will be flooded, although now a pleasant recreational area, is not in a Wilderness Area. The Sierra Club therefore does not wish to oppose the plans.

A proposal to build a dam on Fish Creek to divert water through an eight-mile tunnel into the headwaters of the Owens River was reported. This type of construction would substantially alter the character of a remote Sierra region. The board voted unanimously to oppose the project.

Camping Regulations in National Parks

Recent incidents have called to the attention of the directors some Park Service regulations concerning campfire permits and campsites the existence of which is not widely known. They require that persons wishing to camp in the back country (1) obtain a campfire permit for their trip; (2) use only certain prescribed campsites; and (3) use them only on the date specified.

A person could not, for example, make a knapsack camp at Budd Lake, three miles off the Tioga Road, under Cathedral Peak, or part way down to trail to Glen Aulin.

It was brought out in discussion with Superintendent Russell and Chief Ranger Sedergren that the regulations have long been in effect in many parks, but that there usually has been considerable flexibility in their application, at the discretion of district rangers. Recently, strict and literal enforcement had kept knapsacking parties from following intended itineraries in Yosemite National Park, because the published list of places for which campfire permits would be issued did not include campsites they hoped to use. One party, a family with small children, had to abandon plans for a short trip because the children would have been unable to cover the distances between listed camps, and permission was not granted to camp at any other sites. The directors severally expressed the view that regulations (or their execution) should permit trail parties enough flexibility for them to adjust their travel to conditions as they find them or to the ability of the group. There was a general feeling that the existing regulations tend too much to regiment those who seek wilderness to escape regimentation. It was reported, further, that the regulations are not being applied so strictly in other national parks. The Forest Service fire permits are good for the year in any unclosed national forest.

Russell and Sedergren maintained, however, that both the wilderness and the public have to be protected by the regulations. They also stated that the system whereby campfire permits are issued only for designated places and for predetermined dates makes it possible to find campers in case of emergency, to identify tentatively people missing from abandoned camps, and to fix responsibility for camps left in poor condition, as well as to gather data on the number of campers using an area. If there were no restriction on sites, fireplaces and camp debris would be ubiquitous along the trails.

Clark and others expressed the opinion that essentially the same results could be

obtained by having trail parties announce the intended itinerary at the beginning of a trip and report again at its conclusion, and by teaching them how to leave clean camps.*

Colby said that the Sierra Club was not asking for special privileges for its members; whatever requests of recommendations the club makes are for the good of the general public. He spoke of the work of John Muir and those who came after him, without which Yosemite Valley would still be a state park and much of the present Yosemite National Park would be in private ownership; he spoke also of the contributions made by the Sierra Club to the purchase of the Tenaya property, the Tioga Road, Redwood Meadows, and other private holdings now made into a part of the park system for the benefit of the general public. Further, he expressed doubt that the fire hazard at high elevations, in the regions most frequently visited by knapsackers and climbers, was great enough to justify regulations stricter than those of the Forest Service.

Adams spoke of "a certain quality of magic" experienced by the visitor to the mountains, which is lost if there is regimentation. He said, further, "I would consider it a tragedy if I could not put on a knapsack and start off in a chosen direction. If I lose my life, it is not the responsibility of the Government." He urged registration rather than the necessity of obtaining a "permit," pointing out that registration gives opportunity for instruction and admonition. He agreed that restrictions are necessary in the fire belt, but not above 8000 feet. He suggested the appointment of a committee for study of and recommendation upon the problems involved.

Since the discussion had indicated the necessity of educating campers, it was suggested that the Park Service give serious thought to means of presenting the desired propaganda in some attractive (and effective) form.

*In a later discussion of this question, Dr. Bradley deplored the results, in the Sierra at least, of the familiar instructions to "douse your campfire, then bury it." The dousing, he believed, was adequate. Burial as usually interpreted—filling a fireplace with shovelfuls of earth—merely renders it unfit for the next party's use, and results in the building of new fireplaces. The practice on the High Trip is to bury the coals in a garbage pit and either leave the fireplace for the next parties if it is a good one or scatter the rocks (burying the black ones) if it is not.

Brower urged that a committee studying means of lifting the ban on campsites consider sites near to roadheads for the benefit of those incapable of making longer hikes but still wishing to enjoy knapsacking.

Miss Chase pointed out that the differences between regulations in national parks, national forests, and state parks was bound to cause a great deal of confusion. Farquhar said that, when Park and Forest Service regulations are not in agreement, a conference is desirable, and offered the services of the Sierra Club in promoting the conference. It was agreed that the matter of regulations should be placed on the agenda for the High Sierra Wilderness Conference.

Russell expressed interest in the views of the directors, and assured them of full cooperation in the study.

Other Conservation Matters

A *High Sierra Wilderness Conference*, bringing together representatives of Park and Forest Services, the High Sierra Parkers' Association, the Fish and Game Commission, and conservation organizations interested in the wilderness, is to be sponsored and arranged by the Sierra Club. First authorized a year ago, the conference has not yet been held, but is now planned for the spring of 1949.

Leonard reported reactivation of the *Calaveras Grove Association*, on which he and other Sierra Club members—Warren Atherton, C. M. Goethe, Frederick B. Holmes, and Stella S. Swenson—are among the directors. First formed in 1924 for the purpose of preserving the North and South Calaveras groves, the group became inactive after the North Grove had become a state park and it appeared that the South Grove would be preserved. Since original intentions could not be carried out, it becomes necessary to arrange now for purchase of the South Grove if it is not to be lumbered. The present objective of the

Association is to obtain for a state park the South Calaveras Grove, together with as much as possible of the adjacent sugar pine forest. The Sierra Club Directors resolved approval and endorsement of the objectives set forth by the Calaveras Grove Association, and voted that the \$100 previously appropriated towards an operating fund be turned over to the Association at this time.

It was agreed that the Sierra Club should continue to sponsor the high school *Conservation Essay Contest*, provided suitable arrangements can be worked out without conflicting with activities of the Sports and Boat Show, which has previously shared the sponsorship.

Internal Affairs

Authorization was given for the formation of a *San Diego Chapter*, which the President declared duly constituted and welcomed. An appropriation of \$50 was

made to meet current expenses. It was voted that each authorized *chapter representative* to the Board's organization and business meetings receive a director's expense allowance.

A study of club *insurance* having shown that better coördinated and less costly coverage could be obtained by placing all policies through the one firm of Johnson and Higgins, it was voted that Robert L. Lipman (Chairman, Insurance Committee) should proceed with the change.

James L. Gorin, Chairman of the Southern California Chapter, reported on the plans for required improvements at *Harwood Lodge*. Following lengthy discussion, the Board appropriated a sum not to exceed \$1,500 to match equal expenditures by the Southern California Chapter, and to be paid to the chapter on a reimbursement basis as the expenditures are made.

The *next meeting* was set for November 27 in San Francisco.



NPS photo

NEW TIOGA ROAD ABOVE CRANE FLAT

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Grange Takes Stand on Glacier View Dam

[Testimony of Winton Weydemeyer, Master of the Montana State Grange, presented at the Army Engineers' hearings, Kalispell, May 25, 1948.]

My name is Winton Weydemeyer; I am a farmer and am Master of the Montana State Grange, a farm organization having 2500 members within the Columbia River drainage in Montana. We represent perhaps the most stable element in the population of northwestern Montana, and certainly represent the basic profession in its economy. No other group in the area is more vitally concerned with a balanced long-time program of Columbia River development which will conserve our natural resources and stabilize our economy. We are in accord with the general purpose of flood control and hydroelectric power development expressed by the proposal to construct Glacier View Dam. But in our profession we have learned to look ahead—to save our soils, our timber, and our wildlife not only for ourselves and our children, but for their children and grandchildren. And we would apply the same principle to the planning of our water resources. We want long-range water conservation programs. And the basic principle in long-range water conservation is to hold the water where it falls—in our soils, our forest floors, our vast grasslands, our headwater streams and lakes. It is true that we cannot hold here all the water from melting snows—there is a place for stream reservoirs. But we have overstressed the importance of dams, and too greatly ignored the value of watershed protection.

The proposal to dam the North Fork of the Flathead is in perfect harmony with the national water policy we have been following, of treating results rather than causes. Throwing dams across our streams is in too many cases only an emergency measure, instituted to overcome in part the results of abuse of our watersheds. Here is the pattern we follow, the blueprint for our folly; we cut down the forests which form Nature's water reservoirs faster than they grow; we allow burned watershed areas to lie idle and eroding; we overgraze the

grasslands upon which the rain falls; as a result, there occurs rapid run-off of water from rain and melting snow, with accompanying soil erosion and silting of our streams and reservoirs. When floods occur, do we then hasten to protect the lands whence the water flows? No, instead we pour more concrete or dirt across the silt-laden streams. Is this the remedy, when we allow the silt still to flow, to settle in the reservoirs and . . . eventually destroy their usefulness? A few years ago a national survey indicated that 40 per cent of all reservoirs in this country would be filled by silt in less than 50 years. This means that the next generation will still be paying for the tremendous cost of constructing dams which cannot restrain run-off for seasonal irrigation. Unless, of course, we begin now to deal with causes, begin to lessen the flow of soil down our streams.

In forceful language here today has been portrayed the need for making the best use of our water, for regulating its flow. There are a number of ways in which this can be done; one is by maintaining a healthy forest cover on our watersheds. Are we doing this? We have 93 million acres of poorly-stocked and deforested lands which need replanting, but instead of planting trees we are pouring our money into dams. In this region, Montana, northern Idaho, and northeastern Washington, 1½ million acres need artificial replanting. Though this can be done for only a few dollars an acre, we have replanted only 8 per cent of the area—the money needed to complete the job we have poured into dams. Another way we can maintain a more uniform stream-flow is by maintaining a good grass cover on the range lands which cover two-thirds of the principal watershed areas in the West; studies have shown that a good grass cover will retain as much as 36 times the amount of rainfall without run-off as will heavily grazed land. We have half a billion acres of range lands which have been abused until they are eroding, failing to hold water, and silting streams. It costs only \$1.25 to \$3.50 per acre to reseed—but we are pouring the money

into dams. In our national forest grazing lands, we are spending from the federal treasury for reseeding \$1 for each 89 head of livestock grazed. Forty million acres of these lands need corrective action—but we are pouring the money into dams. An additional \$7 million a year is needed to extend cooperative fire protection to 70 per cent of the nation's commercial timber now protecting our watersheds — but we spend it for concrete.

What is the situation on the North Fork of the Flathead? Can we delay run-off and achieve a more uniform stream flow through protection of the watershed? A flight over the mountains which feed the western tributaries of the stream reveals a shocking picture. Acre after acre, mile after mile of this area has been burned over, and now stands barren and eroding, incapable of absorbing quantities of water or slowing the melting of snow. At this moment angry waters from these burned lands are boiling down Big Creek, Coal Creek, Red Meadow Creek, Moose, Whale, and Hay Creeks, Tuchuck and Yakinikak. Farther north in Canada the picture is the same. Later in the summer the streams will be low—much lower than they used to be before the forest cover was burned. Along the Yakinikak you can see trees as big as a man's leg growing in channels where formerly water ran throughout the year. The effect of forest cover upon rate of snow melting and prevention of erosion is demonstrated along the same stream, where trees more than two hundred years old can be found growing in trails made by the Kootenai Indians, trails still un-

eroded in the dense timber. But in burned or open areas the trails vanish, having long since been obliterated by washing, slides and erosion.

The Montana State Grange feels that in general our dam-building program should be slowed down in favor of more attention to watershed-protection activities and that before any dam is approved for the purpose of flood control or more uniform water flow downstream, the possibilities of achieving this purpose in moderate degree through reforestation, regressing, and stream checks be thoroughly investigated. We oppose the proposed construction of the Glacier View Dam also because of the effect it would have upon Glacier National Park which has been fully explained by earlier witnesses. A fluctuating reservoir along the western border of the Park would destroy esthetic values of more permanent value to the American people than another turbine at Grand Coulee or Bonneville. The effect would not be upon Glacier Park alone, but upon our whole Park system, which constantly is under attack by private or public demands for commercial exploitation of water, grass, timber, or minerals. Our national parks contribute most generously to the health and happiness of the American people, and this contribution will increase in value with the passing of time and the passing of other primeval areas into oblivion.

The National Grange is on record as opposed to the commercial development of water or the natural resources within our national parks.

WINTON WEYDEMEYER

The Big Stump

In the year 1853 the oldest and largest living tree in the world was found in the Calaveras North Grove. Five men spent some twenty-two days boring with pump augers and wedge driving to fell it just for the fun of it. The remains of this once superb tree can be seen to this day. In times past the stump has been used for a dancing floor, printing office and hotel. The trunk was at one time used for a bowling alley.

The destruction of this Big Tree left the honor of the oldest and largest tree to another tree in the same Grove. It was known as the Mother of the Forest, a healthy tree of splendid proportions with a vigorous growth of young Sequoias about it. However, in 1854 the bark was stripped to a height of 116 feet in order that a reproduction of the tree might be exhibited in England. Removal of the bark killed the tree in a short time. The oldest and

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largest living thing is now considered to be the General Sherman Tree (once called the Karl Marx Tree), in Sequoia National Park.

Even the early writers speak with regret of the thoughtless vandalism which destroyed the two great trees of Calaveras; trees older than any tree living today. However, in this year of 1948 a far greater tragedy impends. The Calaveras South Grove, much greater in extent than the North Grove, is in private hands and a logging railroad is now being constructed into the area. The South Grove is the fifth largest grove of Sequoia giganteas and contains some 950 of the 17,000 of the mature specimens of this species still surviving. About \$500 per Giant Sequoia needs to be raised to preserve this Grove as a State Park. The question is today shall we be so short-sighted as to add many stumps to the Old Stump of 1853?

GLEN DAWSON

Fire Fighters, Inc.

Dear Francis Farquhar:

On September 4, a fire started in the Cedar Grove Area probably of incendiary origin, directly across the river from the camp established by the Bay and Southern California Chapters of the Sierra Club for their Labor Day week-end. District Ranger Henry Schmidt reports that had it not been for the prompt action of ten members of the Sierra Club, who happened to be at camp and noticed the fire when it started, control would have been much more difficult. The Club members who contributed considerable time to fighting this fire were: Lloyd M. Demrick, Valerie Hurst, Barbara Fitzwilliams, Gladys Baird, Pat Reynolds, Bill Wall, Arnold Wall, Bob Wall, J. J. Jordan, and Arthur Cogley.

Would it be possible to express our sincere thanks to these members, through the columns of one of your club bulletins?

Sincerely yours,

E. T. SCOVEN

Superintendent

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

Outing Photo Exhibit

The exhibit of photographs taken on Sierra Club outings will be held as follows:

October 30 to November 15 at the headquarters of the Sierra Club in Los Angeles.

November 19 to December 13 at the San Francisco main office.

Dates for other chapters will be announced later.

It is hoped that all who took photographs on the 1948 outings will exhibit their albums. The usual procedure is:

1) Have the albums at the Los Angeles office before the opening date.

2) Identify your photographs. It saves a lot of argument. [Of course, it may subject you to one, too.]

3) Number your photographs, too, so that others may order copies directly from you. Give your address, the cost, and a deadline for orders if you wish. Or specify that you cannot take orders if that is the case.

4) Be prepared to have the editor of the SCB abscond temporarily with photographs worthy of being considered for publication in the annual *Bulletin*.

Walter L. Huber

Fortunately this is not an obituary, but, nevertheless, it has a note of sadness. At the meeting of the directors in Tuolumne Meadows on September 5, 1948, Walter Huber's resignation as treasurer and director was presented and accepted with great reluctance and regret. His reason given was the recent heavy demands of his private practice. We all felt that not to have Walter's counsel and advice on the many vital questions which come up for decision these days was a distinct loss to the club. More than all, we were worried about the selection of a new treasurer. Walter for so many years had handled these financial problems so tactfully and, with unflinching good nature had stood firmly against what, in his opinion, were unwarranted inroads on the treasury, that we knew it would be difficult to find someone to carry on with the same devotion to the

club's best interests. He was leaving this important post with the club's fiscal status the very best in all its history.

Walter became a member of the Sierra Club in 1907 and went on his first high trip in 1908. Since then he has been on many of the summer outings. Many will recall with pleasure the exceptionally fine photographs of the High Sierra which he took on those early trips. His official record is as follows: director 1915-1948, treasurer 1931-1935 and 1936-1948, vice-president 1922-1925 and 1935-1936, and president 1925-1926.

More than to anyone else we owe to Walter Huber the establishment of the Devil's Postpile National Monument, in-

cluding Rainbow Falls. As an engineer in the local office of the United States Forest Service he noted in 1910 an application for water power which, if granted, would have destroyed the Postpile and practically dried up the falls. He at once notified the Sierra Club of this proposed desecration and, securing the cooperation of the Forest Service itself, this national monument was set aside by presidential proclamation, July 6, 1911.

We shall miss Walter at our council table and only trust that as an Honorary Vice-President he will continue to give us the benefit of his sound judgment on the complex questions which are continuously arising nowadays. WILLIAM E. COLBY

Winter Sports Committee Named for 1948-49

Einar Nilsson (chairman), Glen Dawson (vice-chairman), Anne Brower (secretary). *Subcommittee chairmen:* David R. Brower (Ski Mountaineering), Richard H. Felter (Terrain Survey), William Ferguson (Ski Patrol), Joel H. Hildebrand (Advisory), H.

Stewart Kimball (Medical), Emil La Crampe (Ski Camping), Alan Stiles (Tests), Glen L. Weber (Touring). *Ex-officio:* Lewis F. Clark (Vice-President), Arthur H. Blake (Conservation), James Clifford (Tappaan Lodge), Alex Hildebrand (Lodge).

Forest Service Names Advisory Council

Nine leading citizens have agreed to serve as an advisory council for the California region of the U. S. Forest Service, Regional Forester Perry A. Thompson announced recently. They are:

Edwin L. Carty, member of State Fish and Game Commission, Mayor of Oxnard.

John Guthrie, rancher and president of California Cattlemen's Association, Porterville.

A. B. Hood, vice-president and general manager, Ralph Smith Lumber Company, Anderson, Calif.

Dr. Claude B. Hutchison, vice-president of University of California and dean of College of Agriculture, Berkeley.

Barney Mayes, director of research, California State Federation of Labor, San Francisco.

Samuel Morris, general manager, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Bestor Robinson, attorney and former president, Sierra Club, Oakland.

Paul Smith, editor and general manager, San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco.

Carl F. Wente, senior vice-president, Bank of America, San Francisco.

Regional Forester Thompson said: "These citizens, each a leader in his field, will lend their experience and judgment in appraising the present and future policies of the U. S. Forest Service in administering the 20 million acres of National Forest land in California.

"There has been a phenomenal increase in the State's population in the past five years. As a result there is unprecedented demand by the public for rapid utilization of the resources of public forest land. The rate and manner of their use are important. The Advisory Council, whose members are familiar with state and national affairs, can be a big help to us in program ming use and administration."

First meeting of the council is scheduled for October 19 in San Francisco.

Ski Association Holds Stormy Convention

Pasadena, October 10.—In the closing hours of its two-day annual convention here, the Far West Ski Association (new name for the California Ski Association) amended its by-laws, after a stormy session, in a manner that may terminate the affiliation of the Sierra Club, as well as many other clubs, with the association. Of the 63 clubs carried on the association's books, 25 of the 32 clubs present and voting (most of the absent clubs were in the northern areas) voted for an amendment that requires, as a condition of a club's membership in the association, that each member of the club be an individual member of the association at a cost of \$2 per year per member (\$1 for student clubs). The individual member is to receive a season's subscription to the renovated association organ, *The Skier*; a membership pin; and a membership card.

Purpose of the amendment, as disclosed in the discussion, is (a) to insure that the association represents skiers, and (b) to increase its income. The Sierra Club delegates suggested alternative plans whereby no club should be required to have more than 100 (or a reasonable larger number to be determined) individual memberships in the association. This would have enabled the club to continue its affiliation and would have brought to the association coffers a minimum of \$125, and much more than that if *The Skier* should turn out to be a paper that many more club members wanted to subscribe to—an amount as great as \$4,000 or \$5,000 if the club could recommend the paper to its members as a top-notch publication and individual membership in the association as indispensable. The alternative plans were labeled as a request for special favor and were rejected.

So far as point (a) is concerned, it became clear that a few of the delegates from southern California clubs were aiming their restrictive clause at the Sierra Club because it had not always seen eye to eye with their plans for promotion. This indicates a greater fear of the Sierra Club's being allowed to present its point of view than of its delegates' votes—3 out of a po-

tential 189. Whether in or out of the association, however, the Sierra Club will still reach and make known its own conclusions.

With regard to point (b), in the enthusiasm of their arguments for the amendment some of the delegates neglected to give very careful thought to the ramifications of the action for which they were pleading. Some of these can be summarized as follows:

1) In their rush to get a vote on their by-law amendment, the one which was voted, the Southern District Council apparently neglected to submit it to the association secretary in writing thirty days before the meeting, as required in the by-laws. Consequently it was voted in by delegates who had no opportunity to discuss it previously in any regular meeting of their clubs. If the legality of the action can be established, which is doubtful, then several clubs will be forced to submit resignations upon the expiration of their days of grace for certifying 100 per cent individual membership in the association, lest they be liable for full dues to the association for all their members.

2) The sponsors of the amendment neglected to designate what the grace period would be.

3) In the argument there was no discussion of how this action would be coordinated with that of other divisions of the National Ski Association, which, so far as is known, have not taken similar action. It is not likely that the Far West Ski Association would care to see the National take similar action, for example, and require 100 per cent individual membership in the National of all clubs in all divisions.

4) In their preoccupation with the association's financial problems, the sponsors rather glossed over the financial problems of many of the member clubs. It is one thing to vote two dollars out of every skier's pocket. It is another to collect it. Member clubs, to remain in the association, must in effect add \$2 to their own dues, taking the risk of reducing their own membership by the number of skiers who do not care to be forced into reading the

association paper or becoming individual members. Not only is reduction of their membership probable, but there is also a strong likelihood that adding new members will be made more difficult, particularly if rising costs should pinch the skier any more than they already have.

5) In restricting membership by arbitrary financial means, the association will have lost its grass-roots strength, and yet will be neither a representative federation of ski clubs nor an organization that operates on a procedure that will represent all skiers. For example, no thought was given to providing the individual member with a voice in association affairs except through his club's delegates. Accordingly, a club of 20 members would have the same voting strength as a club of 2,000, but would pay only \$40 in annual dues to the treasury as against \$4,000.

6) No evidence was presented in the discussion to suggest that the association could get on a sound financial basis by forcing the sale of newspaper subscriptions and of hoping to sell advertising based on a forced-sale circulation. The previous year's attempt to subsidize the sale of subscriptions (by refunding \$20 to each club that sold its members 100 per cent on individual memberships and subscriptions to *The Skier* at \$1) failed in that it cost the association more than it brought in despite valiant efforts by the publisher of the paper. Very few clubs were able to sell subscriptions to all their members. One of these, Stanford, has indicated that it probably could not do so again. The amendment's answer to this problem is that clubs shall now be required to do so, and at twice the price. It is difficult to see how a budgetable income will result this year, not to mention future years when hard-to-get renewals must be sold.

Yet no other financial solution was sought at the meeting. The most moving force seemed to be to get a too-lengthy discussion over with. As a consequence, the only sound source of income, the traditional member-club dues of \$25, was discarded. No indication was given of what adjustment would be made for those clubs

already having paid their dues for 1948-49 who should be unable to obtain 100 per cent individual memberships and thereby forfeit their affiliation with the association.

The Sierra Club joined the association in 1936, six years after the association itself was formed, and has worked diligently toward the advancement of skiing on all fronts, concentrating on activities in which other clubs, formed principally for ski competition, could not devote so much attention—ski touring and ski mountaineering; technique and equipment for camping on snow; the touring tests; the unification of ski instruction; the building of huts and lodges; the adapting of the sport to the many less-expert skiers; the sponsorship of participant ski games; the development of an objective plan for the recreational use of mountain areas, in winter and in the other three seasons; the giving of counsel to government administrators of public lands; the writing of the *Manual of Ski Mountaineering* for the National Ski Association; the major contributions toward the development of cold-climate military training; the conducting of a comprehensive California ski-terrain survey.

The club has never been easily excited into overenthusiastic or high-pressure promotion of resort development, but has given strong support to whatever it believes to be wise expansion of skiing facilities for the general public. The club's Winter Sports Committee has enjoyed working with other clubs to these ends, and will continue to do so—in the Far West Ski Association if that is possible, or out of it if that course is forced by the few influential men in the association who seem to feel that the club has been too slow to endorse resort promotion. If the club as a whole must remain out, means will be sought whereby those members who wish to round out their participation in skiing by taking part in competitions may still race for the club or sponsor sanctioned meets. The Sierra Club hopes, for the good of skiing, that other ski organizations will upon full consideration see that their association takes no step that will stultify itself in the end.

DAVID R. BROWER

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